

LEOMINSTER & WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT
Herefordshire



A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the
State of the Public Health
for the year 1953.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.

I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.,

Sanitary Inspector.

G.E. BULL, M.S.I.S., C.R.San.I.,

Pest Officer.

GEOFFREY E. BULL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1953.

Tuberculosis continues to be our most important public health problem in the sphere of infectious disease.

The number of cases on the Register rose from 78 last year to 82 at the end of 1953. Reference to the records of the past eight years reveals the persistence of the upward trend. At the end of 1946 there were 59 names on the Register; in 1948 there were 70; in 1950, 74; and 78 in 1952. These figures are for both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases. If the two forms are considered separately the increase is seen to have been largely in respect of Pulmonary cases.

An epidemic of Measles affected the greater part of the district during the year. Altogether, 325 cases were notified, the majority occurring throughout the first half of the year. For the most part the illness was mild and no fatalities arising directly from the disease were reported. In 1953, Poliomyelitis was notified on two occasions. It will be remembered that there were five cases during the previous year.

Scarlet Fever, which is endemic throughout Britain, and which is always giving rise to odd cases here and there, produced a total of fourteen cases during the year. They were widely separated both by time and place; and were characterised by the mildness of the illness.

Your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G.E. Bull, and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the keen interest taken by the Chairman (Mrs. E.F. Burns) and members of the Housing Committee in all matters affecting health in the district and for the encouragement given to us in our work throughout the year.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	94,101
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,380
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to)							
						the Rate Books)	3,580
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£49,326
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£194

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	..	..	170	101	69
(Illegitimate)	..	..	6	2	4
Total	..	..	176		
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	..	..	4	2	2
(Illegitimate)	..	..	1	1	-
Total	..	..	5		
DEATHS	..	..	114	64	50
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	..	..	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	..	..	2	-	2

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1953

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	..	17.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	15.5
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	..	0.48
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	..	0.35
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	..	11.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	..	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	..	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	..	26.8

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Section B to D).

SECTION B - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

WATER SUPPLIES.

Leintwardine

Samples of water from the well supplying Leintwardine have been taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological analysis and results in all cases have been satisfactory. Chlorination of the supply is being successfully carried out. The plan to pipe the water to a larger part of the village is expected to be put into operation in the ensuing year.

Adforton

The Adforton water scheme was completed during the year. This serves the whole of the village. The water is obtained from a borehole and pumped through a combined pumping and delivery main to a reservoir.

Wigmore

A temporary supply from the new borehole for the Council houses has been made to existing standpipes located in the village. The water has been sampled at frequent intervals and results have been satisfactory.

Richards Castle

A mains water supply was provided in the village - the water being taken from a borehole supplying the Council houses.

WATER SAMPLING

Bacteriological

187 Bacteriological samples of water were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory at Hereford for analysis. These samples produced the following results:-

Satisfactory	..	..	150
Unsatisfactory	.	..	37

Chemical

Four samples of water were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory at Birmingham for chemical analysis. These samples produced the following results:-

Satisfactory	..	..	4
Unsatisfactory	.	..	Nil

The major part of the district is supplied by private wells; only a few Parishes having a piped supply. The Parishes with a piped supply are as follows:-

Wigmore	..	62 houses on standpipe.
Adforton	..	29 houses and school on mains.
Brampton Bryan		24 houses and school on mains.
Leintwardine		136 houses and school on mains; 28 houses on standpipe.
Richards Castle		21 houses on mains.
Shobdon	..	44 temporary dwellings on mains; 11 houses on standpipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Housing Sites

Sewage disposal works on housing sites have been inspected weekly. These plants are working very satisfactorily. The contents of the settling tanks are removed every four months, ensuring the efficient working of the plant.

Sewage disposal in the district is mainly by private septic tanks and filters; in other cases by the conservancy system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution of any rivers or streams occurred during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A house-to-house refuse collection is carried out by the Local Authority which is working well. Additional areas were included in the existing scheme. Tips are now situated at Shobdon, Fidlers Elbow, Leintwardine, Bodenham and Brimfield.

DISINFECTION on account of INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Forty-two inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease; and disinfection was carried out at twenty houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders and under enactments governing Meat and Food.

Inspections, etc. under	Number	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	451	144	-	123
Factories Acts.	100	5	-	5
Milk Regulations 1949 ..	151	-	-	-
Bakehouses	27	2	-	2
Food Premises	449	3	-	3
Schools	25	2	-	2
Water Supplies	191	44	-	41
Infectious Disease . ..	42	-	-	-
Knackers Yard	32	2	-	2
Hop-pickers' Quarters ..	16	2	-	2

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

One hundred inspections have been made at the factories with and without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small generally, only employing two or three persons. Five informal notices have been served for minor defects. On the whole the Regulations are carried out satisfactorily

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	42	37	5	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	5	12	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	32	51	-	-
TOTAL	79	100	5	-

The five notices served were in respect of want of cleanliness. No other defects were observed.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PLSTS ACT, 1949

Survey of all premises is being carried out under the above Act. Private dwelling houses have been treated free of charge, and treatments are now available, when required, for business and industrial properties.

SECTION C - HOUSING

Number of Council Houses built by Local Authority in 1953 were:-

Permanent brick 14

The number of houses built by private persons:-

Permanent brick 8

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts. 231
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 451
2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 182

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

No statutory notices were served .

One hundred and forty-four informal notices were served during 1953.

DEFECTS REMEDIED

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied, or in connection with which repairs were carried out:-

Spouting Repaired	18	Pumps repaired ..	2
Roofs	30	Dangerous walls ..	7
Drains . ..	44	Defective floors .	23
Dampness	14	Windows repaired .	24
Septic Tanks Constructed ..	30	Doors repaired ..	5
W.C.s. provided	18	Chimneys repaired	32
Defective cesspools ..	12	Plaster repaired .	24
New sinks fitted	21	Def. cooking acc.	12
Baths fitted	21	Stairs repaired ..	6
W.C.s. repaired	1	Pantries provided	3
Foul earth closets . ..	2	Washing Acc. provided	11
Defective wells	39	Other nuisances	39
New wells.	8		

VAN DWELLINGS

There are several van dwellings' in the district. Most of the permanent type are situated in Abbey Lane, Lointwardine, and have their own water supply and drainage. The remainder are of a temporary nature and are privately owned. In general, they obtain their water from the nearest dwelling and use chemical closets.

CAMPING SITES

Where camping does occur in the district it is only for short periods.

SECTION D - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Four hundred and forty-nine inspections were made at various food-shops in the district. Three notices were served for limewashing and these were carried out. The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned fruit	152 lb.	Bacon	48 lb.
" vegetables	78 lb.	Meat	771 lb.
" milk	121 lb.		
" meat	51 lb.		
" soup	21 lb.		
" fish	26 lb.		

No slaughtering for human consumption is carried out in the district.

NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES

<u>TYPE OF PREMISES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PREMISES</u>
(a) GROCERS (including sale of fruit, fish, vegetables, game and pre-packed ice-cream).	18
(b) SWEETS & SUGAR CONFECTIONERY (including sale of pre-packed ice cream)	Included in (a)
(c) RESTAURANTS & CATERING Establishments (including Fish and Chip Fryers, sale of pre-packed ice cream).	8
(d) LICENSED PREMISES (hotels, inns and clubs)	24
(e) BAKERS and CONFECTIONERS.	7
(f) BUTCHERS.	5
(g) CENTRAL KITCHEN for SCHOOL MEALS	1
(h) CORN STORES and SHOPS	5
Total	68

NUMBER of FOOD PREMISES, by TYPE, REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 of the FOOD and DRUGS ACT, 1938

(i) SALE OF PRE-PACKED ICE CREAM	
Grocers	11
Restaurants & catering establishments	2
Confectioners	1
Butchers	1
Total	15
(j) PREPARATION OR MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES, OR POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED OR PRESERVED FOOD.	
Butchers	1

Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (excluding farm dairies) 4

Number of inspections of registered food premises 449

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Meat Knackers Yard.
Other Foods Burial.

SECTION E - PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	9	2	1	1	-	14
Whooping Cough	3	8	8	18	-	-	-	-	37
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	6	34	50	180	42	6	7	-	325
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	2	5	-	9
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	5

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1953 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of fifty-two males and thirty females who normally reside within the district.

During the year three new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis; three names were added to the Register by transference from other districts and one name was restored to the Register following return to the district.

During the same period one death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, and two recovered.

SECTION F - DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer:-

Number of children who were primarily immunised against diphtheria in the 12 months ended 31st December, 1953, and those who were given a reinforcing injection :-

Age at date of final injection.				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
34	49	37	120	226

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report of survey by Pest Officer.

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agri-cultural	All other including Business premises	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	6	2465	564	186	3221
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result of	(a)				
(a) notification	-	21	2	-	23
(b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	(b) 6	684	226	103	1019
(c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose.	(c) -	29	18	5	52
3. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats.	Major -	3	25	4	32
	Minor 5	52	10	8	75
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	12	1	5	18
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority.	5	67	-	-	72
6. Number of Notices served under Section 4.					
1. Treatment.	-	-	-	-	-
2. Structural Works. (Proofing)	-	2	-	-	2
7. Number of "block" Control schemes carried out.	-	2	-	-	2

Note 1. For the purpose of completing Sections 2,3,4 and 5 each property has been entered once only in respect of inspections, infestations and treatments.

